

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

CEMETERY TRUSTEES

Minutes of the Meeting- May 10, 2022

Minutes were accepted on June 14, 2022

Present Robert Christian, Chairman
 Karen Belcher
 Joshua Segal

Chairman Christian called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The minutes of the April 12, 2022 meeting were reviewed and accepted with a minor correction.

It was noted that Joshua will call Mr. Kaufold to place corner stones with W's on the lot that had been sold and get a price to fix the stone that has fallen in Evergreen Cemetery.

The Cemetery Trustees discussed the potential water issue in the cemetery. Joshua suggested that a warrant article be proposed to raise the money for whatever needed to be done by the Water and Sewer Commission. As the Trustees do not know what kind of water problem there might be, Robert Christian suggested that the Cemetery Trustees invite Matt Miller and Tyler Howe from the Water Department to come to the next Cemetery Trustees' meeting for an update between the departments. Matt and Tyler will be put on the agenda for the June Cemetery Trustees' meeting at 6:45 p.m.

In other business, it was noted that Mr. Chicoine has done the seeding of the grass at the cemetery. A bill in the amount of \$685.00 has been received for the Spring clean-up, seeding and trimming of branches. Perpetual care is now being figured out by a separate company, but it will not affect the payment of the billing for cemetery work. The Trustees will ask Bethany for an overview of the money that is actually available to be used for work at the cemeteries.

In new business, Joshua made a motion to raise the prices of cemetery lots to reflect the long-term maintenance costs of the Town-owned cemeteries. The Town of Bennington is not charging enough to even cover the annual mowing costs. The new cost schedule will be: \$600 for a single plot in which may be interred up to one full burial plus up to two additional sets of cremains on top of the coffin. \$1000 for a 2-plot lot in which may be interred up to two-full coffin burials plus up to four additional sets of cremains, 2 on top of each coffin. In addition,

either single or double lots will require 4- corner posts. Since this is a variable cost not under control of the town, it is an additional charge to be determined at the time of sale of the lot. To do anything less is fiscally irresponsible and is just kicking the costs of the cemetery down the road to the taxpayers of Bennington. Should cost of a lot/plot be an issue at the time of an interment, there are lots that are designed for such interments. No marker may be placed with any more indication than the lot number, until the lot is fully paid. Robert Christian seconded the motion. Karen Belcher presented the pricing of cemetery lots in surrounding town noting the extreme price increase and reminding the Trustees that any changes in the price will need to go before the Selectmen. Robert Christian made a motion to table the discussion. Joshua seconded the motion and all were in favor of tabling the motion.

The Cemetery Trustees will be looking at the cemeteries to see if there is any upcoming tree work that will be needed. Karen Belcher made a motion to get a quote for the completion of the Bible Hill Road side of the Sunnyside Cemetery fence. Robert Christian seconded the motion and all were in favor. Robert Christian will reach out to John Giffin for a quote.

As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Debra Belcher
Cemetery Trustee Recording Secretary